

From: [Geist, Laura \(DHHS\)](#)
To: [Thomas A. Lang, Esquire - Comcast](#)
Cc: [Clifford W. McKeown](#); [Kevin I. Bagatta](#)
Subject: RE: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017
Date: Friday, September 29, 2017 8:42:00 AM
Attachments: [RA Budget.pdf](#)

Hi Tom,

Do you have any time to today to discuss the budget? I have attached a draft to this message. I am glad to make corrections as needed. I drafted based on your agency's original budget, with adjustments to allow for the allocation amount of \$650,000.

Also, I need to know the counties in which your organization provides services. Do you provide statewide service delivery?

Thank you,
Laura

Laura Geist
(517) 241-3932
GeistL1@michigan.gov

From: Thomas A. Lang, Esquire - Comcast [mailto:ra-operations@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 5:18 PM
To: Geist, Laura (DHHS) <GeistL1@michigan.gov>
Cc: Clifford W. McKeown <ra-finance@comcast.net>; Kevin I. Bagatta <ra-president@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Laura -

Cliff McKeown, our VP of Administration who handles our financial matters tells me that he registered at the site on Monday while I was out.

We're ready to go when you are!

Thanks!
Tom

From: "Geist, Laura (DHHS)" <GeistL1@michigan.gov>
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2017 at 11:58 AM
To: Thomas Lang <ra-operations@comcast.net>, "Derman, Barbara (DHHS)" <DermanB@michigan.gov>
Cc: "Kevin I. Bagatta" <ra-president@comcast.net>

Subject: RE: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Hi Tom,

We will release the grant in the EGrAMS system. Early next week, individuals from your agency (at a minimum, you and Kevin) should create user profiles. Once profiles are created, your agency can work on filling out the “application.” We refer to this as an application, though it is truly the mechanism for creation and transfer of the statement of work and budget documents needed for your grant agreement.

I can assist your agency with entry of information into the statement of work and budget. Based on your original Attachment A, I believe I can enter information for the statement of work for your review. Because the dollar amount is different again this year, I do need your assistance with crafting the budget.

Again, I am glad to walk you through the process. Once the necessary statement of work and budget are entered, Kevin will be able to submit the “application” materials. Hopefully, we can complete all of the necessary steps by Thursday next week. This will allow us enough time to review and execute the agreement on Friday.

I have attached to this email a copy of the EGrAMS user manual. Instructions for creating user profiles can be found on pages 7 – 8. If you and Kevin can create profiles on Monday, I believe we can move through the process expeditiously.

Thank you,
Laura

Laura Geist
(517) 241-3932
GeistL1@michigan.gov

From: Thomas A. Lang, Esquire - Comcast [<mailto:ra-operations@comcast.net>]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2017 4:13 PM
To: Geist, Laura (DHHS) <GeistL1@michigan.gov>; Derman, Barbara (DHHS) <DermanB@michigan.gov>
Cc: Kevin I. Bagatta, Esquire (ra-president@comcast.net) <ra-president@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Laura -

Thank you for those explanations. What is the next step in moving forward with the new contract?

Thank you!

Tom

From: "Geist, Laura (DHHS)" <GeistL1@michigan.gov>

Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at 11:18 AM

To: Thomas Lang <ra-operations@comcast.net>, "Derman, Barbara (DHHS)" <DermanB@michigan.gov>

Cc: "Kevin I. Bagatta" <ra-president@comcast.net>

Subject: RE: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Hi Tom,

- 1) The new terminology used by MDHHS was established to be in line with changes at the federal level regarding 2 CFR 200. Your current agreement is old enough that the super circular did not exist when it was established. Contractor now has a defined federal meaning, and we are referring to agencies who hold grant agreements as Grantees to make that distinction. MDHHS implemented that change in FY 2016.
- 2) If your agency is mentioning MDHHS or the fact that funding is received in any publication, you need to have authorization to do so from the MDHHS communication office. If MDHHS is not mentioned in your press releases and other communications, the section does not apply.

Ownership rights of your proprietary software and programming are still within your agency's purview. That has not changed. Again, MDHHS should not be mentioned in any communication about the RAPID system without MDHHS communications approval. We can add the language regarding RAPID to an Attachment E within the agreement.

- 3) If your CPA has identified that these workers are not subrecipients, the terms do not apply to the Service Providers. Again, subrecipient and subcontractor are federally defined. A CPA would be able to make the best determination on the distinction. The section does still apply if Real Alternatives enters into a relationship with an organization meeting the definition of subrecipient under the auspices of this agreement.
- 4) Mandatory Disclosures apply to Real Alternatives as an agency, as well as any subcontractor or officer or director of either Real Alternatives or its subcontractors. This is agency-wide and not specific to your work in Michigan. Should any of the items noted under Mandatory Disclosures occur, it is the obligation of your agency to disclose to MDHHS. The items listed are at issue, and Right To Know is not part of the list included.
- 5) We can add an Attachment E to the agreement noted the alternative deadlines. The language in the body of the agreement cannot be changed, but an Attachment will supersede the agreement.

- 6) The EGrAMS system requires grant goals with objectives and activities. Your agency is required to follow the format within the EGrAMS system (mirroring page 23 of 30). Your agency will need to enter the work statement based on the system format. This is the MDHHS standard and cannot be modified. I am glad to assist your agency with fitting the current work statement into the EGrAMS format.
- 7) The EGrAMS system requires the budget to be entered directly into the system. Your agency is required to enter the budget based on the EGrAMS system format (mirroring page 24 – 25). Your agency will need to enter budget information based on the system format. This is the MDHHS standard and cannot be modified. I am glad to assist your agency with fitting the current budget into the EGrAMS format.

Thank you,
Laura

Laura Geist
(517) 241-3932
GeistL1@michigan.gov

From: Thomas A. Lang, Esquire - Comcast [<mailto:ra-operations@comcast.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 5:31 PM
To: Geist, Laura (DHHS) <GeistL1@michigan.gov>; Derman, Barbara (DHHS) <DermanB@michigan.gov>
Cc: Kevin I. Bagatta, Esquire (ra-president@comcast.net) <ra-president@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017
Importance: High

Laura -

Thank you for that clarification! We can now provide you with our additional questions about the proposed new Grant terms.

1. In the current Grant Agreement Real Alternatives (“RA”) is referred to as the “Contractor,” but the new terms refer to RA as the “Grantee.” Is there a reason for the change?
2. In paragraphs 3 and 5 on Page 4 of 30, there are references to “prior written authorization” that RA must obtain for certain things. What does MDHHS have in mind in that regard? What is the scope? For example, RA often puts out Press Releases on the amount of clients, visits, and related information at certain points in time. We’ve never had to obtain prior written approval in any state for such communications. Are we correct that nothing is changing in this regard?

In addition, the paragraph 5 that is in our current Michigan Grant will also have to be added as follows:

“The parties understand and agree that deliverables under this grant agreement do not include the Real Alternatives Program and Instructional Design (RAPID) System. RAPID includes the following copyrighted, trade secret, and proprietary materials and information: all software, documents, forms, checklists, staff training materials, service provider materials, billing systems, and program management tools designed to administer the Michigan Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program, including procedures, reports, and accounting manuals. It is further agreed and understood that the RAPID System materials are specifically not included in the agreement’s Scope of Work. The RAPID System includes copyrighted, trade secret, and proprietary materials and information which belong to and shall remain the exclusive property of Real Alternatives, and is exempted and excluded from this Publication Rights section.”

3. With regard to section H. on Page 7 of 30, we believe that it doesn’t apply to RA since our Service Providers are not “subrecipients,” but instead are vendors/subcontractors. It has been made certain to us by our Certified Public Accountants and is the case in all other states that, with regard to federal funds, the state agency is the “recipient” of those funds, RA is a “subrecipient,” and RA’s Service Providers are vendors/subcontractors. Please confirm that this is MDHHS’ understanding also.

4. With regard to section L. on Page 8 of 30, we believe this language applies to activities in the Michigan Grant. For example, a Right To Know Request received in a state other than Michigan would not be caught up by this paragraph?

5. With regard to the new section M. on Page 9 of 30, the proposed timeframe is not possible. We close each prior month on the 20th day of the subsequent month. Our current Michigan Grant (see Attachment “C”) and our other states’ agreements provide us with 45 days after the close of a quarter to submit the Quarterly Report. We are requesting that identical period of time.

6. With regard to Attachment A on Page 23 of 30, we plan on utilizing our current Grant Goals format agreed to in our current Michigan Grant. Kindly indicate your agreement with this. (see proposed Attachment C, paragraph B for this permission)

7. With regard to Attachment B on Page 24 of 30 (Program Budget Summary), we plan on using the current format agreed to in our current Michigan Grant. Kindly also indicate your agreement with this.

Thank you!
Tom

From: "Geist, Laura (DHHS)" <GeistL1@michigan.gov>

Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 10:19 AM

To: Thomas Lang <ra-operations@comcast.net>, "Derman, Barbara (DHHS)" <DermanB@michigan.gov>, "Kevin I. Bagatta" <ra-president@comcast.net>

Subject: RE: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Good morning, Tom,

It is my understanding that the new contract will only involve federal TANF funding.

Thank you,
Laura

Laura Geist
(517) 241-3932
GeistL1@michigan.gov

From: Thomas A. Lang, Esquire - Comcast [<mailto:ra-operations@comcast.net>]
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 2:14 PM
To: Derman, Barbara (DHHS) <DermanB@michigan.gov>; Geist, Laura (DHHS) <GeistL1@michigan.gov>; Kevin I. Bagatta, Esquire (ra-president@comcast.net) <ra-president@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Laura -

So based on Quess' explanation, can you confirm that the new contract only involves **federal** funds?

Thank you!
Tom

From: "Derman, Barbara (DHHS)" <DermanB@michigan.gov>
Date: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 3:59 PM
To: "Geist, Laura (DHHS)" <GeistL1@michigan.gov>, Thomas Lang <ra-operations@comcast.net>, "Kevin I. Bagatta" <ra-president@comcast.net>
Subject: FW: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Laura,
If I could weigh in on Tom's question regarding federal vs non-federal funding and reporting expenditures on the FSR.

I believe this refers to an issue that won't apply with this contract going forward. Because the last amendment to the original contract included both carried over general funds and TANF funds allocated for FY2017, and were being paid based on submitted paper FSRs, Real Alternatives had adapted the Standard Financial Status Report form (DCH-0384(E) to show a column for state funds and one for TANF funds in order to track that they had spent state funds before spending TANF funds. That caused confusion when they had completed "state funds" and were submitting expenditures for TANF funding portion of the contract. So that won't be an issue going forward, especially submitting through EGrAMS. (see the email chain below with Dallas Davis in accounting)

Barbara (Quess) Derman, MSW

Public Health Consultant, Reproductive & Preconception Health
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
109 W. Michigan Ave, 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48913
Phone: 517-335-8696 Fax: 517-335-8822 Cell: 517-449-5968
DermanB@michigan.gov

From: Davis, Dallas (DHHS)
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 12:08 PM
To: Derman, Barbara (DHHS) <DermanB@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Yes, yes and yes Thank you!

From: Derman, Barbara (DHHS)
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 12:01 PM
To: Davis, Dallas (DHHS) <DavisD14@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

So he should be using the Standard Financial Status Report form (DCH-0384(E) instead of the adaption he made this fiscal year when he added the columns that showed the sources of funding (State and TANF)? And he should reflect the full budget in the current contract, showing the full budget and expenditures, without any reference to state and TANF, since the contract is with us?
Do I have that correct? Makes sense

Barbara (Quess) Derman, MSW

Public Health Consultant, Reproductive & Preconception Health
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DermanB@michigan.gov

From: Davis, Dallas (DHHS)
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 7:45 AM
To: Derman, Barbara (DHHS) <DermanB@michigan.gov>; Cliff <ra-finance@comcast.net>
Subject: RE: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

It looks like the most recent submission is only reporting on the TANF? I need to see everything. The FSR "Budget" needs to match the budget in the amendment, and all expenditures must be reported.

From: Davis, Dallas (DHHS)
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 7:27 AM

To: Derman, Barbara (DHHS) <DermanB@michigan.gov>; Cliff <ra-finance@comcast.net>
Subject: RE: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

I will work on these again today, but please use the FSRMDHHS mailbox for all submissions and communications. Thank you!

From: Derman, Barbara (DHHS)
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 3:56 PM
To: Cliff <ra-finance@comcast.net>; Davis, Dallas (DHHS) <DavisD14@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Hi Cliff, I'm working out of the office today, will get them approved and to her first thing in the morning in a high importance email. Sorry for the hold up. Let me know when you receive payment please, so I can stay on top of it. Thanks

Barbara (Quess) Derman, MSW

Public Health Consultant, Reproductive & Preconception Health
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From: Cliff [<mailto:ra-finance@comcast.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 10:53 AM
To: Davis, Dallas (DHHS) <DavisD14@michigan.gov>
Cc: Derman, Barbara (DHHS) <DermanB@michigan.gov>
Subject: FW: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Mrs. Davis,
Do you know when we will be receiving our reimbursements? Thank you.
Cliff McKeown

From: Cliff <ra-finance@comcast.net>
Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at 4:35 PM
To: "Davis, Dallas (DHHS)" <DavisD14@michigan.gov>
Cc: "Derman, Barbara (DHHS)" <DermanB@michigan.gov>, Tom Lang <ra-operations@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Mrs. Davis,
Please see our resubmissions for March, the balance remaining, April and May. Please advise if our submissions are not sufficient for you to process our reimbursements. Thank you.

Cliff McKeown

From: "Davis, Dallas (DHHS)" <DavisD14@michigan.gov>
Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 11:01 AM
To: Cliff <ra-finance@comcast.net>, "Derman, Barbara (DHHS)" <DermanB@michigan.gov>
Cc: "Miller, Teresa (DHHS)" <MillerT2@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Hello, I am sorry for the delay, upon further review it was determined that the TANF portion actually must be reported on the state expenditures line. We do not provide reimbursement for the federal source of funds.

From: Cliff [<mailto:ra-finance@comcast.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2017 10:30 AM
To: Derman, Barbara (DHHS) <DermanB@michigan.gov>
Cc: Davis, Dallas (DHHS) <DavisD14@michigan.gov>
Subject: Re: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Ms. Derman,

We still haven't received the TANF portion of March, nor April, nor May yet. Would you be able to inquire about when we will be receiving the reimbursements? Thank you!

Cliff McKeown

From: "Derman, Barbara (DHHS)" <DermanB@michigan.gov>
Date: Friday, June 23, 2017 at 10:48 AM
To: Cliff <ra-finance@comcast.net>, "Davis, Dallas (DHHS)" <DavisD14@michigan.gov>
Cc: Tom Lang <ra-operations@comcast.net>, "Dunbar, Paulette Dobynes (DHHS)" <dunbarp@michigan.gov>
Subject: RE: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Thank you Cliff,

I am out of the office for a program review today, I will review and forward to accounting on Monday when I'm in Lansing. Have a good weekend.

Barbara (Quess) Derman, MSW

Public Health Consultant, Reproductive & Preconception Health
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
109 W. Michigan Ave, 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48913
Phone: 517-335-8696 Fax: 517-335-8822 Cell: 517-449-5968
DermanB@michigan.gov

From: Cliff [<mailto:ra-finance@comcast.net>]

Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 3:42 PM

To: Derman, Barbara (DHHS) <DermanB@michigan.gov>; Davis, Dallas (DHHS) <DavisD14@michigan.gov>

Cc: Tom Lang <ra-operations@comcast.net>

Subject: Real Alternatives Michigan Preg and Parenting Support Svcs Program Expenses for May 2017

Ms. Derman,

Please see attached Real Alternatives Michigan Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program expenses for May 2017.

Best Regards,

Cliff McKeown